

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network device comprising:

a first connection section configured to be connected to a first network;

5 a second connection section configured to be connected to a second network different from the first network;

10 a control section configured to detect equipment connected to the second network through the second connection section, to generate identification information by which the detected equipment is added to the first network, and to transmit the information to the first network through the first connection section.

15 2. A network device according to claim 1, wherein the control section comprises a reset section configured to require reconstruction that equipment connected to the second network is added to the first network in a state where there is caused a change in any one of the number of equipment connected to the second network and information on the equipment connected to the second network.

20 3. A network device according to claim 1, wherein the control section comprises a transfer section configured to receive data supplied from the first network through the first connection section, to specify equipment connected to the second network from identification information included in the data, and to

transmit the data to the specified equipment.

4. A network device according to claim 1, wherein the control section comprises:

a quantity detection section configured to detect the number of equipment connected to the second network through the second connection section;

an assignment section configured to generate the same number of identification information as that of the equipment detected by the quantity detection section, and to assign the information to the equipment connected to the second network, respectively; and

a transmitting section configured to transmit the identification information generated by the assignment section to the first network through the first connection section.

5. A network device according to claim 4, wherein the control section comprises:

an information collection section configured to collect information on the equipment connected to the second network through the second connection section; and

a reset section configured to require reconstruction that the equipment connected to the second network is added to the first network in a state where there is caused a change in any one of the number of equipment detected by the quantity detection section and information which has been collected by the

information collection section.

6. A network device according to claim 4, wherein  
the control section comprises:

an information collection section configured to  
collect information on equipment connected to the  
second network through the second connection section;

a storage section configured to store information  
collected by the information collection section and  
identification information generated by the assignment  
section in relation to each other; and

a transfer section configured to receive data  
supplied from the first network through the first  
connection section, to specify equipment connected to  
the second network, using the identification  
information included in the data and the contents  
stored in the storage section, and to transmit the data  
to the specified equipment.

7. A network method of making data transmission  
between a first network and a second network different  
from the first network, comprising:

requiring construction by which equipment  
connected to the second network is added to the first  
network; and

transmitting identification information, by which  
equipment connected to the second network is added to  
the first network, to the first network in a state  
where the construction is required.

8. A network method according to claim 7, wherein  
the requiring construction is executed in a state where  
there is caused a change in any one of the number of  
equipment connected to the second network and  
5 information on the equipment connected to the second  
network.

9. A network method according to claim 7, further  
comprising:

receiving data supplied from the first network;  
10 specifying equipment connected to the second network  
from the identification information included in the  
data and transmitting the data to the specified  
equipment.

10. A network method according to claim 7, wherein  
15 the transmitting the identification information  
comprises:

detecting the number of equipment connected to the  
second network;

generating the same number of identification  
20 information as that of the detected equipment and  
assigning the identification information to the  
equipment connected to the second network; and

transmitting the identification information, which  
have been assigned, to the first network.

25 11. A network method according to claim 10,  
wherein the requiring construction is executed in a  
state where, after information on the equipment

connected to the second network are collected, there is caused a change in any one of the collected information on the equipment and the detected number of the equipment.

5        12. A network method according to claim 10,  
further comprising:

          collecting information on the equipment connected to the second network;

10      storing the collected pieces of information and the assigned identification information in relation to each other; and

15      receiving data supplied from the first network, specifying the equipment connected to the second network, using the stored contents from the identification information included in the data and transmitting the data to the specified equipment.